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REVIEWS

An Introduction to Social Psychology. By CHARLES A. ELLWOOD.
New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1917. Pp. xii+343. \$2.00.

This volume "is a simplification and systematization of the theories" contained in the author's *Sociology in Its Psychological Aspects*, but with additions and new points of view.

The work has three natural subdivisions, the first of which (three chapters) is a good but somewhat conventional discussion of the relation of social psychology to sociology and other sciences, the scientific methods that should be employed in its study, the distinction between organic and social evolution, and the relation of inherited human nature to human society.

The second division (five chapters) contains the main discussion and is devoted to an exposition of the nature of social unity and of social continuity and the theory of social change. The author emphasizes the point that the psychic is basal to these and consequently is fundamental to a correct knowledge of social processes, social activities, and the co-ordination of individuals in activity. Social continuity is defined as the unity of society in time, emphasizing, therefore, the same principles and factors as social unity, but embodied in the traditions and institutions of society. Social change, he argues, may take place under normal conditions by adaptation to a slowly changing environment, either unconsciously, or consciously through discussion and leadership. Or, on the other hand, it may take place under abnormal conditions, such as those culminating in social revolutions. These chapters are easily the best part of the volume and furnish an excellent presentation of social psychology proper.

The third division, the remaining chapters, seem more like appendixes explaining and amplifying certain topics of the volume, but in themselves they form no unity and do not carry forward to a conclusion the main argument of the work. One wonders why the substance of these chapters was not incorporated into the earlier ones and irrelevant matter omitted. Criticism directed against the volume would find its chief attack in statements contained in these chapters. Almost any one of the authors, for example, whose views are presented might take exception to some interpretation given to his teachings, owing, doubtless, to

the impossibility of presenting with dogmatic brevity what the authors themselves preferred to amplify so as to guard against misunderstanding.

The volume as a whole is a valuable contribution to the study of social psychology. It is clearly, though not brilliantly, written and is strengthened by chapter references and an excellent index.

J. Q. DEALEY

BROWN UNIVERSITY

American World Policies. By WALTER E. WEIL. New York: Macmillan, 1917. Pp. 307. \$2.25.

The ignorance of the average American regarding foreign affairs and his incapacity to understand or appreciate their importance and significance are proverbial. While generally due to indifference, these shortcomings are in part chargeable to a lamentable want of readable literature, sane and fundamental in character and American in viewpoint. Of the many valuable books produced by the world-war there is perhaps none so admirably suited to the needs of the American public as this very able and readable volume by Dr. Weil. Written in excellent style, corroborated by a compelling array of facts, and replete with excellent illustrations, it presents to the reader a splendid and interesting introduction to the larger aspects of world-politics.

While the writer finds reason to believe that eventually the world may be organized for peace, his belief is not based on a blind optimism, nor does he seek to evade the gigantic problems of world-statesmanship that must be solved. His presentation of these questions with all their complexity and magnitude, but in such a way as to challenge further interest and effort rather than to overcome the reader with dismay, is one of the distinct accomplishments of the book.

Dr. Weil believes that economic factors are the dominant causes of war. He does not deny the influence of other interests, but treats them only as accelerating or modifying forces. He convincingly argues that trade follows the flag to a considerable extent, thereby suggesting an important limitation upon Norman Angell's well-known thesis. However, he believes that the cost of modern war is larger than its profits.

The pressure of increasing population and the change from agricultural to industrial life create a demand for new sources of raw material and an enlarging market for manufactured goods. This brings the progressive nations into deadly conflict over the available markets and agricultural areas of the world. These they must have if they are to